# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4892
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
TELEPHONE FACILITY IN GRAM PANCHAYATS
Yadav Shri Mitrasen

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh which have not been provided telephone facility so far, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has set out any target for providing telephone facility to all the gram panchayats in the country during 2008-09;

(c) if so, the number of gram panchayats in Uttar Pradesh to be provided the said facility;and

(d) the time by which facility is likely to be provided to all the gram panchayats in Uttar Pradesh?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) This department maintains data in respect of villages covered by Rural Telephony. However all the Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh are covered by telephone facility. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 29.2.2008, out of this, 53,073 villages have been provided with VPTs and the remaining 13,749 villages will be provided with VPT facility by December 2008. A statement indicating State-wise number of uncovered villages, provided with telephone connections and the number of villages which are yet to be provided with telephone connections is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.